

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes, April 8, 2002

Gail Sokolowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. In attendance were Jerry Berrier, Joe Bellil, and Daniel Morgado.

Mr. Bellil moved and Ms. Sokolowski seconded a motion to accept the minutes from our March meeting. The motion passed.

Liaison Report:

- ❑ Mr. Morgado said Mr. Hopkins, Executive Director of the Architectural Access Board, signed off on the plans to resolve the access ramp issue at the Historical Society's Brick Schoolhouse. Work will begin as soon as possible,
- ❑ Mr. Morgado stated and Mr. Berrier confirmed that Mr. Berrier has received an initial response from the Shrewsbury fire chief regarding Jerry's proposal to conduct an educational seminar on emergency preparedness. Fire Chief LaFlamme has turned the matter over to Captain Vuona, who will research the matter and then contact the Commission on Disabilities. Chief LaFlamme expressed interest in holding such a program.
- ❑ Mr. Morgado described a complaint he received from a Shrewsbury resident on 4 April. He said and others agreed that there seem to be misconceptions regarding our responsibilities and purpose. He reviewed our 6 areas of responsibility as set forth in state law 40-8J. In brief, we are to research local issues, advise and assist local agencies, coordinate and carry out educational or awareness programs, review current policies and make recommendations, provide information and guidance.
- ❑ He said we have neither the responsibility nor the power to police businesses or individuals.
- ❑ We discussed the importance of responding appropriately to complaints and to e-mails sent to the Commission. We agreed that any accusatory or inflammatory e-mail should be discussed among us before any response is sent.

Mr. Morgado reminded us that \$10,000.00 has been set aside for access projects in the coming year.

Mr. Morgado left the meeting after giving his report.

Correspondence: Gail mentioned a couple of miscellaneous items.

Of particular relevance to us was a notice of a regional disability commissions meeting to be held on May 8 from 1:00 until 4:00 in Framingham. We all agreed that someone from our commission should attend.

Jerry will review and modify the current complaint process on our web page. He'll e-mail his proposed changes to commission members for approval.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 7:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary